

branches of the gourd vines a small dark brown Scolytid. The preceding year's vines and even fruit, proved to be packed full of these small insects, their larvæ and pupæ. I collected a good series of the perfect insect, and Dr. Hopkins, of the Bureau of Entomology at Washington, D. C., pronounced them to be a species of *Xylocleptes*, either *cucurbitæ* Lec. or a new species, probably the latter. It was the first time I had observed the species in the state, and the present season I hope to secure both the larvæ and pupæ of this insect.

ON THE USE OF COAL TAR CREOSOTE AS A PREVENTATIVE OF CABINET PESTS.

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An article by Dr. Geo. W. Bock, entitled "An absolutely sure method of preservation of natural scientific collections against insect enemies" appeared on page 443 of the December, 1907, issue of the *Entomological News*. This interested me at the time and shortly afterward I made an experiment with the method. Dr. Bock used thimbles, to which he had soldered pins, for affixing the same in cabinet; these he filled with medicated cotton which he soaked with coal tar creosote.

Not having time to prepare the thimbles, I prepared another receptacle for the creosote. I bought a box of no. 0 gelatine capsules—100 cost \$.10.* Throwing aside the top I used the larger bottom of the capsule as a receptacle to hold the creosote. My method of preparation was as follows: I first inserted a little tuft of common absorbent cotton into the capsule with my forceps and filled about 50 thus. To support the capsule in the box I used a common pin which I first heated slightly over a lamp and then thrust through the capsule at right angles to its vertical axis and near the top (see Fig. 1). The heated pin fused itself through both sides of the gelatine capsule, fastening firmly. A little practice will teach the experimenter the trick of heating the pin to the proper temperature, so that the work may be done rapidly. I used medium size common pins but a black headed steel pin, I believe, would have proved superior.

The operation of filling the capsules may be done with a medicine dropper and takes little time.

* Empty gelatine capsules are manufactured by Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich.

These capsules prepared thus, were used in 12" × 16" cabinet drawers, two to the drawer. They held down the pests in a very much neglected and crowded cabinet for nearly a year until I found time to work over the material. In pinning the capsules into the drawers I at first thought it necessary to pin them into the sides so as to keep them upright, but later I pinned them into the bottom in a slanting position with good results. By inserting a stout insect pin obliquely to the vertical axis of the capsule (see Fig. 2), it may be pinned in the bottom of the drawer and there is no chance of the creosote running out. This is a fault that I anticipated but it did not

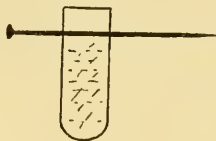


FIG. 1.

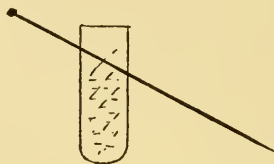


FIG. 2.

occur, the cotton absorbing all the creosote. The capsules are small, not very noticeable and maintain a strong odor of the creosote in the cabinet. The drawers of the cabinet were quite tight, however, and were not opened a half dozen times in ten months. I believe that the capsules would need refilling about once in every six months where the drawers were frequently opened.

It is better to use a small amount of cotton and not to pack it into the capsule. Do not use too much creosote either. Capsules in which the cotton is loose are much easier to refill. When capsules are just filled, pin them in an old box set up on end and let them remain a day, so that any creosote which may have run over on the outside will dry before putting capsules into the cabinet.

THE NOTONECTID GENUS BUENOA KIRKALDY.

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These notes by no means aim at exhaustiveness. Much is necessarily omitted, but as their main purpose is to unravel the tangle into which have fallen the species of the genus occurring in the eastern United States, it does not appear to be appropriate to go minutely into details best treated of in a monographic revision of the genus.